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Congress of the United States
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RANKING MEMBER ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

August 24, 2017

Administrator McMahon
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW
Washington D.C. 20416

Dear Administrator McMahon,

On August 18, 2017, you announced that the Small Business Administration (SBA) would make low-interest loans available to businesses, homeowners, and renters in certain counties in Wisconsin and Illinois that were affected by flooding on July 11, 2017. While the primary request for this assistance came from Wisconsin, the SBA loans were also made available to Boone, Lake, and McHenry counties in Illinois. I commend this action by the SBA and appreciate the inclusion of Illinois, specifically Lake County in my congressional district, which was significantly impacted by the flooding.

I am writing to request that a Disaster Loan Outreach Center also be opened in Lake County, Illinois, to assist Illinois residents with their loan applications. Currently, the aforementioned Disaster Loan Outreach Centers are only located in Wisconsin. As such, for Illinoisans to speak to a SBA representative face-to-face to discuss a loan application, they must travel a significant distance to Wisconsin.

I understand that Illinois and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently completed their joint damage assessment for individual assistance and that if Governor Rauner of Illinois requests federal assistance, and such assistance is granted, that a federal assistance center will open in Illinois. However, we do not yet know how long this process will take, and I do not believe Illinois residents should have to wait to gain access to these important resources. I encourage SBA to do everything in its power to make it easier for Illinois residents impacted by the recent flooding to gain access to a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in their time of most significant need.

The torrential rains that caused record flooding in July 2017 damaged my constituents' homes and businesses, uprooted families, and caused significant losses to many companies. I strongly urge the SBA to open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Illinois to provide assistance to our community after this crisis. Thank you for your consideration. Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Zaida Ricker in my office at (202) 225-4835 or Zaida.Ricker@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

CC: Governor Bruce Rauner